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16. — *Precedents of American Neutrality, in Reply to the Speech of Sir Roundell Palmer, Attorney-General of England, in the British House of Commons, May 13, 1864.* By GEORGE BEMIS. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1864. pp. viii., 83.

WHEN a nation feels vaguely that it has been wronged, no one can do it a more useful service than in showing it that its indignation is not unreasonable, for nothing is more likely to bring it back to composure than the assurance of being in the right. Mr. Bemis's countrymen owe him their thanks for teaching them that their own judicial precedents are so wholly on their side, and so precisely accordant with national dignity and justice, that they can afford to be patient in their resentment at the pinchbeck neutrality of England. In a question where temper is necessarily so large an ingredient, it is of great advantage to be brought back to our bearings by a dispassionate legal argument. Mr. Loring, in his able pamphlets, had already argued the law and ethics of the case; and now comes Mr. Bemis, with fresh citation of authorities, to meet the new ground assumed by the British Attorney-General, leaving no decent path of escape for him but by way of confession and avoidance. Mr. Bemis's monograph is pointed and timely, and we wish he would continue his researches so far as to give us a summary of the French doctrine of neutrality, as exhibited during our Revolutionary War.

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17. — *Life and Letters of David Coit Scudder, Missionary in Southern India.* By HORACE E. SCUDDER. New York: Hurd and Houghton. Boston: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1864. Sm. 8vo. pp. viii., 402.

DAVID COIT SCUDDER was born in Boston in 1835, and died, a missionary in India, in 1862. His life was not marked by unusual or striking events; his character was a simple one; his attainments were not extraordinary; he had not a wide reputation. Why, then, write his biography? why publish a volume of his Life and Letters? Although answer might be made on behalf of this book, that there are few lives so dull, few characters so level, that a frank and sincere account of them is without interest, yet there is a more special reason to be given for this biography, and one the force of which all readers of the book will readily acknowledge.

David Scudder was a man much loved, and worthy of much love. To preserve a record of his life was the happy duty of brotherly affection, not merely for the sake of giving a memorial of him to his nearest friends, but also in order to extend his influence and example to those who otherwise would have no knowledge of him. A biography